

Jeremiah 37:9

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

Thus saith the LORD; Deceive not yourselves, saying, The Chaldeans shall surely depart from us: for they shall not depart.

Analysis

God warns against self-deception: 'Deceive not yourselves.' When Babylon temporarily withdrew, people thought judgment was averted. But God says even if they defeated all Babylon's army, leaving only wounded men, those wounded would rise and burn the city. This hyperbole emphasizes the certainty of God's decreed judgment. No human power can prevent what God has determined.

Historical Context

The Egyptian army's approach had caused Babylon to lift the siege temporarily (37:5). People thought they were delivered, but God's purpose remained unchanged.

Related Passages

John 3:16 — God's love and salvation

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Romans 2:1 — Judging others

Matthew 25:31 — Final judgment

Study Questions

1. How do you guard against self-deception about spiritual realities?
2. What does this teach about the certainty of God's declared purposes?

Interlinear Text

לְאָמֵן רְכָב הָנָה יְהֹוָה אֱלֹהִים תְּשַׁאֲוֹת נִפְשְׁתִיכֶם לְאָמֵן רְכָב
H3541 Thus saith the LORD H408 Deceive not yourselves Thus saith
H559 H3068 H5377 H5315 H559

יְלִכּוּ לְאָמֵן כִּי בְּפִשְׁדָם מִשְׁעָל יְכוּ יְלִכּוּ
shall surely shall surely H5921 The Chaldeans H3778 H3588 H3808 shall surely
H1980 H1980 H3778 H1980

Additional Cross-References

Obadiah 1:3 (Parallel theme): The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high; that saith in his heart, Who shall bring me down to the ground?

Jeremiah 29:8 (References Lord): For thus saith the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel; Let not your prophets and your diviners, that be in the midst of you, deceive you, neither hearken to your dreams which ye cause to be dreamed.

Ephesians 5:6 (Parallel theme): Let no man deceive you with vain words: for because of these things cometh the wrath of God upon the children of disobedience.

James 1:22 (Parallel theme): But be ye doers of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves.

Galatians 6:3 (Parallel theme): For if a man think himself to be something, when he is nothing, he deceiveth himself.

Galatians 6:7 (Parallel theme): Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

2 Thessalonians 2:3 (Parallel theme): Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition;

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